

Alexander Hamilton | Lesson Plan

How is Alexander Hamilton's life proof that qualification is more important than age?

Students will understand how United States Founding Father Alexander Hamilton became an American military officer and statesman who served as the first Secretary of the Treasury during George Washington's presidency. They will learn to view challenges as opportunities to grow and expand their capabilities, regardless of external circumstances.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the life and accomplishments of Alexander Hamilton.
- Analyze what qualities and skills led to Hamilton's success as an American Statesman.
- Explain how qualifications are more important than age, race, or background.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Leadership:** Guiding and motivating teams or individuals to achieve goals.
- **Presidential Cabinet:** A group of advisors who help the President of the United States with decisions and presidential business.
- **Currency:** Money.
- **Secretary of Treasury:** The advisor to President of the United States responsible for all money matters.
- **United States Constitution:** The supreme law of the United States, ratified in 1788, which establishes the framework of the national government and its fundamental laws and guarantees certain basic rights for its citizens. It outlines the structure of the federal government, delineates the powers of its three branches, and includes amendments, such as the Bill of Rights, to protect individual freedoms.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Historical Figures, Economics

What You'll Need

- Video: *Alexander Hamilton: America's First Secretary of Treasury* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Alexander Hamilton: America's First Secretary of Treasury* (Click [Here](#))
- A \$10 bill or an image of a \$10 bill

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)



Warm-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Begin the lesson by showing students a \$10 bill and ask if they recognize the person on it. Discuss why certain people might be featured on money.
2. Inform the class that they'll be exploring the life of an extraordinary person from history who was just a bit older than some of them are now! They will watch a video about Alexander Hamilton, a young man who achieved far more than many believed possible at his age.
3. Introduce Alexander Hamilton as one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Despite his modest beginnings, Hamilton's intelligence and drive led him to play a crucial role in shaping the United States in its early years:
 - He was an influential advocate for the Constitution, writing 51 of the 85 essays known as *The Federalist Papers*, which helped convince states to agree to the new government structure.
 - As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton established the national bank, set up a system to handle the country's debts, and laid the groundwork for American economic policy.

Through these actions, Hamilton significantly impacted the formation of the American government and economic systems, making him a key figure in American history.

4. Display a copy of the "Leo & Layla: Alexander Hamilton Worksheet" and distribute individual worksheets to students.
5. Read over the worksheet as a class so students know what to look for during the video. Invite students to predict what they might learn about Alexander Hamilton.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions, assisting as needed.

Wrap-Up: (20 minutes)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Discuss how Alexander Hamilton's life proves that qualifications are more important than age, race, or background.
3. Invite volunteers to share and discuss their answers to questions 8-10.
4. Wrap up the lesson by having the students reflect on Alexander Hamilton's journey and discuss how his life teaches us that qualifications matter more than age. Encourage them to think about how they can apply this lesson in their own lives, understanding that their skills and abilities are what truly count. Remind them to pursue their dreams confidently, knowing that they, too, can make a difference, regardless of their age. Encourage students to pursue ways to begin gaining skills that will help them achieve their future goals.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.